



Ein cyf/Our ref MA/EM/0119/21

Bethan Sayed MS
Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

29 January 2021

Dear Bethan,

Thank you for your letter dated 8 January 2021, regarding the scrutiny of the draft Welsh Language Standards (No. 8) Regulations.

I am pleased to inform you that the consultation ended on 2 October 2020 and responses were received from 15 bodies, including 8 of the 9 bodies that will be directly affected by the Regulations. My officials have analysed the consultation and changes have been made to the draft Regulations to address many of the matters raised.

In addition, my officials attended your Committee to provide a technical briefing on 17 September 2020. During that session Helen Mary Jones MS, the temporary Chair of the Committee, made a suggestion in relation to the Regulations. It was her view that registrants should be able to discuss a complaint made about them in Welsh with their regulatory body in a wider context than just at the legal proceeding itself (e.g. a fitness to practice hearing). I agree with this view and the draft Regulations have been amended to make provision as the Member has suggested. The draft Regulations will place duties on the health care regulators regarding complaints against a registrant. This ensures that a registrant would be able to use Welsh throughout the process of dealing with a complaint against them, from the initial discussion with the regulatory body through to a formal fitness to practice hearing.

However, one key matter remains outstanding. The consultation responses highlighted that some would wish to see a Standard which places duties on regulators to collect and publish information about a registrant's ability and willingness to practice in Welsh so that a person will be able to consider language when choosing a registrants e.g. an osteopath, optician, or dentist. The objective of the proposal is to increase the opportunities for persons to use Welsh within this sector by choosing a registrant that can practice in Welsh.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I support this objective and am eager to address this matter. However, the most effective way of achieving that objective requires further consideration with the sector and with the Welsh Language Commissioner.

I have therefore decided not to proceed to lay these Regulations during this Senedd Term, but have asked my officials to continue their consideration of the matter . I am happy to meet with you, as Chair of the Committee to provide an update once a workable solution has been found.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl, Llesiant a'r Gymraeg
Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language